

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 MBFR-04

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /070 W

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R 212315Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1701

USIA WASHDC

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MADRID FOR USIS

USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4452

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: SPANISH MEDIA AT NATO

1. UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY, WE PLAN TO EXPLORE WITH NATO INFORMATION SERVICE AND SHAPE THE POSSIBILITY OF A PROJECT INVOLVING A VISIT TO NATO AND SHAPE BY A GROUP OF SPANISH JOURNALISTS

AS PROPOSED BY USIS MADRID. THE PROJECT WOULD REPRESENT A TEST FOR JUDGING DESIRABILITY OF SIMILAR FUTURE PROGRAMMING. POLITICAL PROBLEMS AT NATO, SUCH AS THOSE NOTED BELOW, HAVE LED US TO DO NO SUCH PROGRAMMIN IN RECENT YEARS.

2. THE PROJECT WOULD BE A VISIT BY THREE JOURNALISTS FROM TOP MADRID PERIODICALS FOR BRIEFINGS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS, SHAPE AN POSSIBLY OTHER NATO INSTALLATIONS.

3. MISSION SEES FOLLOWING POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES FROM THESE PROJECTS: THEY WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO GENERAL EDUCATION ABOUT NATO AND US POLICY OF IMPROTANT SPANISH MEDIA GROUPS.

THEY WOULD ENHANCE USIS MADRID'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH
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IMPORTATNT SPANISH MEDIA REPS.

THEY ARE CONSISTENT WITH U.S. POLICY OF FAVORING GREATER SPAIN-NATO COOPERATION.

4. MISSION SEES FOLLOWING POSSIBLE DANGERS FROM THESE PROJECTS:
THEY COULD BE INTERPRETED BY SOME HERE AS U.S. PRESSURE ON
SPAIN-NATO ISSUE. COMPLAINTS ARE POSSIBLE.
SOME ALERT LOCAL JOURNALISTS MIGHT LEARN ABOUT VISIT AND
WRITE STORIES ALLEGING U.S. PRESSURE ON SPANISH ENTRY.

THE GOUPS MIGHT LEARN AND PUBLICIZE FACT THAT U.S. IS NOT
PUSHING SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO AGGRESSIVELY AND ALSO MIGHT GAIN
ENHANCED APPRECIATION OF IMPORTANCE OF SPANISH BASES TO U.S. (AND NATO). (IF JOURNALISTS ARE WELL INFORMED, THEY WOULD ALREADY BE AWARE OF THIS.)

COVERAGE RESULTING FROM VISITS LIKELY TO BE CAREFULLY TAILORED
TO REFLECT OFFICIAL SPANISH POLICY. ALSO RISK THAT OUTCOME WILL NOT
FURTHER U.S. AND NATO OBJECTIVES. BUT SUCH RISKS ALWAYS EXIST IN
WORKING WITH JOURNALISTS. USIS MADRID'S CANDIDATE ON FEBRUARY'S
NATO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS TOUR PRODUCED SERIES OF SEVEN VERY
POSITIVE FEATURES ON U.S. MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND SCIENTIFIC
ACHIEVEMENT. FEATURES WERE PROMINENTLY CARRIED IN LEADING SPANISH
NEWSPAPER, INDICATING POSSIBILITY OF GOOD RESULTS FROM SUCH
PROJECTS.
RUMSFELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO04452
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730962/abqceced.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH MEDIA AT NATO
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
To: STATE
USIA INFO SECDEF
MADRID FOR USIS
USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005